

HAITI:

Fouche, Luc  
Chauvet, Ernest Georges

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FOUCHE, Luc

HAITI

The Haitian delegation to the seventh session of the UN General Assembly will probably be completely dominated by its Chairman, Luc Fouche, a handsome, forceful, dynamic lawyer and long time intimate friend of the Haitian President, Paul E. Magloire.

FOUCHE, Luc: Head of the permanent delegation. He was without experience at the UN prior to his appointment to that post in March, 1952. Fouche is a lawyer of ability and integrity; a bouhood friend of the current Haitian President, Paul E. Magloire; owner of the daily La Democratique which is considered by many to be the official organ of the government. His previous career includes service as National Deputy, Minister of Agriculture, Education and Labor; Minister of Public Works and Secretary of State for the Presidency from which post he was appointed to the UN. Appears to be one of the rare Haitians of whom it is unusual to hear adverse criticism; friendly to U.S. business interests in Haiti; understands English, but is reluctant to speak it, a common trait among Haitians.

Prepared October 7, 1952 for the seventh session of the UNGA. BI.

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Division of Biographic Information

CHAUVET, Ernest Georges

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Personal data: Born October 9, 1889, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; widower, two children. He is light in color. His son, Pierre, is married to former President Lescot's daughter, and was Under Secretary of State for Finance and Commerce during Lescot's regime, and was formerly a director of the National Bank of Haiti.

Education: Grammar School, Port-au-Prince, 1897-1907; Petit Séminaire' College, St. Martial of Port-au-Prince; graduate, Eagle School of Journalism of Brooklyn, 1910.

Languages: Fluent English, French( Mother tongue).

Career:

1909-1911 Apprentice on the newspaper, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York.  
1911-1913 Vice-Consul, New York.  
1914-1917 Resided in New York;  
Employed as a promoter for the American Sugar Company.  
1917 Returned to Port-au-Prince.  
--- - --- Owner and editor of Le Nouvelliste for years( a newspaper founded and owned by his father and himself).  
--- - --- Secretary to the Commander of the Coast Guard.  
--- - --- Secretary to the Chief of the Gendarmerie.  
1931 High Commissioner of the Haitian Exhibition, Paris, for eight months.  
1934-1937 Minister to England.  
1936 Presided over the Congress of Correspondents of the Latin American Press, Bucharest.  
1937 Haitian representative to the World Press Congress at Nice.  
1939 Resided in France;  
Travelled through Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Switzerland.  
1942 Returned to Port-au-Prince.  
1943 Le Nouvelliste closed by presidential order, February 25.  
--- - --- Resumed direction of Le Nouvelliste.  
1947 Assistant delegate and Counselor of Haitian delegation to UN Interim Assembly.  
1948-date Permanent delegate to UN;  
Member, Haitian delegation, UNGA, third session, Paris, September.  
1949 Counselor for the Permanent Delegation of Haiti before the UN.  
1950 Delegate to the UN General Assembly, fifth session, New York, September.

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CONFIDENTIALCHAUVET, Ernest Georges (continued)HAITIRemarks:

Chauvet, who calls himself "Dean of the Haitian Press", 1/ has a reputation for being a trouble-maker and has been called "a swindler, a blackmailer, and an untrustworthy scamp". In 1944 he was reported to have wide influence in Haiti, but this was described as one based on fear, mixed with envy. Regarded as being afraid of nothing and no one, Chauvet has been imprisoned several times for the publication of libelous news in his paper, Le Nouvelliste. Nevertheless, he is unquestionably an able and clever journalist and is personally agreeable and entertaining. Among his traits has been noted the practice of "calling a spade a spade", and of discussing with a misleading naiveté and simple frankness subjects normally treated by innuendo in Haiti. 2/

In 1944, Chauvet's attitude toward the US was regarded as ostensibly favorable but very critical. 2/ He has a long record of outspoken criticism against the US, which extends back to 1915. At that time he was reported to be acting as a German representative in the US. 3/ During the American occupation of Haiti, Chauvet published propaganda in Le Nouvelliste which was so inflammatory and subversive in character that it was necessary for the Haitian government to arrest him. 4/ Untroubled by inconsistencies in character, and in spite of his journalistic venom, he was known to have maintained cordial relations with certain American officials at that time. 5/, 6/ In June 1947, Chauvet's attitude toward the US continued to be critical as evidenced by a letter which he circularized to certain Latin American newspapers editors soliciting aid for Haiti in freeing itself from U. S. economic domination which he characterized as a menace to Haitian sovereignty. 1/

Later, Chauvet strongly disapproved of the attempts to develop a Latin American bloc within the United Nations on the grounds that a bloc creates resentment on the part of governments and also encourages the development of other blocs. He has also voiced the opinion that Haiti has had less than its share of United Nations honors. 8/ At the second part of the third regular session of the UN General Assembly Chauvet was one of the most uniformly cooperative and friendly of the Latin American delegates and actually went out of his way in behalf of the U. S. delegation. 9/

Chauvet is regarded as pro-French, and in 1945 he indicated his disappointment at not having been appointed to a diplomatic post in Paris by publishing a rather sarcastic comment in his newspaper on the success of the person designated to the post. 2/, 7/

OII:BI:FA Somerford:bk

September 15, 1950

Sources:

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- 1/ D-1406, La Paz, Bolivia, June 2, 1947. (Unclassified).
- 2/ Biographic Data Report, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, January 1944. (Confidential).
- 3/ Department of Justice, Letter of May 11, 1943. (Confidential).
- 4/ Department of State, LA, Letter, August 6, 1930. (Confidential).
- 5/ D-1330, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, October 13, 1930. (Confidential).
- 6/ Biographic Data Report, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, March 19, 1929. (Confidential).
- 7/ D-911, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, July 26, 1945. (Confidential).
- 8/ Memorandum of Conversation, US Mission to the UN, July 2, 1948. (Confidential).
- 9/ Memorandum, USUN Mission, July 18, 1949. (Confidential).

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